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HOUSE RESOLUTION 286
By Rowland

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coach Andy McCollum of Middle Tennessee State University on being selected as 2001 Tennessee Sports Writers Association Football Coach of the Year.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those athletes and coaches who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as extraordinary ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, Andy McCollum, football coach at Middle Tennessee State University, is one such estimable Tennessean; a standout among his peers, he was recently selected as 2001 Football Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association and will be presented with the award at the annual TSWA convention in June; and

WHEREAS, Coach McCollum's recent recognition adds another honor to a remarkable list of gridiron accomplishments; in all of his endeavors, he has consistently attained unrivalled success and risen above his competition; and

WHEREAS, as a prep standout at Marietta High School, he earned third team all-state honors and was recognized as Cobb County Player of the Year, North Georgia Athlete of the

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Year, and Most Valuable Player at Marietta while quarterbacking his team to a region championship; and

WHEREAS, Andy continued his playing career at Austin Peay State University, where he earned four letters and was honorable mention All-Ohio Valley Conference before receiving his Bachelor of Science in 1981; and

WHEREAS, he began his coaching career in 1981 as a graduate assistant at Middle Tennessee State University under legendary coach and current athletic director Boots Donnelly; he earned the honor and respect of his peers and athletes alike during his first term at MTSU and displayed the promise of future coaching greatness, while also completing further education in Industrial Safety and Driver Safety Education; and

WHEREAS, from 1989 until 1993, he served as an Assistant Coach at the University of Texas in El Paso before joining Chucky Reed's staff at Baylor University; he coached at Baylor from 1993 until 1998, earning an unsurpassed reputation as a gridiron tactician and master recruiter; and

WHEREAS, since taking the helm of MTSU's program on December 8, 1998, Coach McCollum has led the Blue Raiders to unprecedented success as a fledgling member of Division I-A of the NCAA; and

WHEREAS, in three years, the team has compiled an overall record of 17-16 and enjoyed consecutive winning seasons; for his role, Coach McCollum has now received consecutive awards as Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Blue Raiders set forty-six team and individual records and compiled a record of 8-3 to earn a share of the Sun Belt Conference Championship; and

WHEREAS, in the opening game of the season, the Blue Raiders also reached a milestone by defeating a Southeastern Conference opponent for the first time in program history; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee has competed against some of the most revered teams in America and has earned the respect of those teams by competing admirably with spirit and determination; and

WHEREAS, likewise, Coach McCollum has earned the respect of his peers and the college football community for the unsurpassed quality of his work, his innate teaching talents, and his tremendous commitment and work ethic; and

WHEREAS, his professional accomplishments aside, Andy McCollum is also devoted to the highest level of family values; he shares much love and companionship with his wife, the former Gwen Wilkinson, and is the proud and father of a son, Drew, and a daughter, Andrea; and

WHEREAS, Coach Andy McCollum has repeatedly led his teams to national prominence and garnered many accolades; he serves as a fine example of the high quality of this State's populace and is worthy of our respect and admiration; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we join the players, administration, and fans of the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders in congratulating Andy McCollum on being selected as 2001 Tennessee Sports Writers Association Coach of the Year and wish him every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.